Transfer of land to original owners by SEZ developers

3104. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to advise the SEZ developers to return 10 per cent of developed land to the original owners of the land from whom land has been acquired or purchased directly or through the State Government;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) if yes, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE) MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Land/land usage is a State subject and each State allows acquisition/purchase of land for various purposes as per their policy.

Motive of big companies foraying into SEZs

3105. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of agricultural land that has been converted into SEZs;

(b) what is the total number of employment these SEZs have generated;

(c) whether it is a fact that most big business houses have jumped into these activities as they feel it is an attractive real estate play; and

(d) does the Government has any plan to incentivize labour intensive industries and discourage highly mechanized units in the proposed SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE) MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Under the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Act, 2005 formal approval has been granted for setting up of 453 SEZs, involving 62378 hectares of land.

(b) Special Economic Zones in India are currently providing direct employment to 3,11,372 persons.

(c) The objectives of the SEZ Act are (i) Generation of additional economic activity; (ii) Promotion of exports of goods and services; (iii) Promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; (iv) creation of employment opportunities and (v) development of infrastructure facilities. All authorised operations/activities within an SEZ are to be duly approved by the Board of Approval for SEZs.

(d) The 453 formal approvals granted include approvals for setting up of labour intensive multi product and sector specific SEZs in areas such as textiles and apparels, leather & footwear, Gems and jewellery, Engineering, Agro and food processing industry, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals etc. The SEZs notified under the SEZ Act, 2005 are already providing employment to 90407 persons.